



Media Advisory

Largest Oceans & Coastal Conference Convening in Chicago

"Winds of Change" for Great Lakes, Oceans and Coastal Communities

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Ann Tihansky

(813) 727-0841

(202) 208-3342

CHICAGO, IL – Media representatives are invited to join scientists, policymakers, federal and state officials and nonprofit and industry leaders at the Coastal Zone 2011 Conference at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago on July 17-21. Coming one year after President Obama created the first U.S. National Ocean Policy, the conference will explore the challenges and solutions for many pressing issues affecting America's oceans, Great Lakes, and coastal communities.

What: The Coastal Zone 2011 Conference is the 17th consecutive biennial conference of what has become the largest gathering of ocean and coastal management professionals.

Who: Nearly 1,000 people are expected, representing Federal, State, and local governments, academia, nonprofit organizations, and private industry. Lead sponsors this year include the Department of the Interior, EPA, NOAA, Illinois Department of Nature Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and The Nature Conservancy.

When: July 17 to 21, 2011

Opening Plenary: July 18, 9:45 a.m. Moderator John Podesta, President and CEO of the Center for American Progress and leading representatives from the Department of the Interior, NOAA, EPA, US Army Corps of Engineers, The Nature Conservancy, and Environment Canada in a candid discussion of how these agencies are working together to implement the National Ocean Policy

See agenda and list of speakers for closing plenary on climate change and 180 other sessions: <http://www.doi.gov/initiatives/CZ11/index.htm>

Where: Hyatt Regency Chicago

151 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, Ill. 60601

See Additional Events at Shedd Aquarium on July 20, below.

RSVP: Registration fees are waived for credentialed media.

Learn more: <http://www.doi.gov/initiatives/CZ11/press.htm> or contact Ann Tihansky
(ann_tihansky@ios.doi.gov)

Can't make it in person? Tune in remotely to selected webinars. This service is provided by New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Coastal Management Program. <http://www.doi.gov/initiatives/CZ11/webinars.htm>.

Additional Events:

Evening interpretative boat tour on Chicago's Lakefront projects with experts discussing beach management and restoration efforts, a shoreline reconstruction project, and a new addition to Chicago's harbor system – the largest municipal harbor system in the nation, currently under construction and a project converting a former general aviation airport to a 91-acre nature preserve.

Public Day at the Shedd Aquarium—Wednesday July 20, 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

A day-long celebration of the Great Lakes, Coasts, and Ocean with enhanced exhibits and experts present all day. <http://www.sheddaquarium.org/>

July 20, 4:30 pm ET --The JASON Project's Live broadcast from the Aquarium-- - The Sea Research Foundation, National Geographic Society, and the Coastal America Partnership will feature policy experts and scientists from the conference.

<http://www.jason.org/public/whatis/live.aspx>

Visit Coastal Zone 11 on-line:

<http://www.doi.gov/initiatives/CZ11/index.htm>